



“MAKING ONTARIO A SAFER PLACE FROM FIRE.”

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AWARDS RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIRE SAFETY

TORONTO, Ontario, May 22, 2003 – Thirteen individuals and organizations, including six children, have been selected to receive Fire Safety Awards from the Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council. The annual awards recognize outstanding contributions to fire protection and prevention in Ontario.

“All of the award recipients have displayed extraordinary commitment and dedication to keeping their communities safe from fire,” said Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle. “Needless deaths, injuries and property damage have undoubtedly been avoided because of the efforts of these individuals and organizations.”

This year, fire departments from across the province nominated a total of 29 individuals and organizations, from which 13 were selected to receive awards. The awards first started in 1988 and this year will be presented at a luncheon ceremony at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto on June 18, 2003.

Action Awards: *These awards are for children aged 16 or under who took appropriate action to prevent or minimize a potentially hostile fire situation.*

Payman Barazandeh, age 10, from Mississauga saw smoke in the hallway outside his apartment on Christmas Day 2002. Payman made sure his young sister returned to their apartment, ran down the hallway to pull the fire alarm and then went back to the apartment so he and his family could safely evacuate the building. His quick and courageous actions helped prevent serious damage to the building and occupants.

Vincent Charlebois, age 11, from Ajax was out for an afternoon walk with his mother in October 2002 when they heard a smoke alarm in a neighbour’s home. While other passersby ignored the alarm, Vincent insisted that his reluctant mom call the fire department, saying, “The firefighters won’t be mad” if it’s a false alarm. The fire department arrived to find the home filling up with smoke and an unconscious man overcome by carbon monoxide. Vincent’s persistence may well have saved a life.

Adam Cochran, age 13, from Waterloo, woke up in the early hours of March 2002 to the smell of smoke and a small fire in his bedroom caused by the mechanical failure of an electric fan. Adam remembered his fire safety lessons and crawled to the door, checked for heat before opening it, then alerted his parents who gathered their other two sons and quickly exited the house. Thanks to Adam’s quick thinking and fire safety knowledge, the family escaped unharmed.

Alicia Harvey, from Welland, was six years old in December 2001, when a fire raged through her family's home. While her mother pondered what to do, Alicia calmly stepped forward and took charge. She pushed a dresser to the window in the ground floor bedroom and climbed up onto it using a chair. She opened the window and then punched a hole in the screen before helping her young sister out. Her mom pushed Alicia out to safety before being rescued herself. Alicia's quick thinking probably saved her life and the lives of her family.

Scorpio King, age 12, from Belleville, was delivering newspapers one afternoon in March 2003 when he noticed something strange at a subscribers home. When he looked through a window, Scorpio saw the home was filling with smoke and sparks were coming out of the top of the stove. He promptly called the fire department from a neighbouring home. Because of his swift action, Scorpio saved the home from potential disaster.

Rudy Unni, age 7, from Burlington, learned his family had bought a fire extinguisher that was still in its box in the closet. Although his mother wanted to wait until her husband got home from a business trip to show her how it worked, Rudy insisted that she learn how to use it and even read her the instructions as she cooked dinner. Two days later a pot of oil caught fire in the kitchen and his mom successfully extinguished it, and credited her son's insistence for knowing what to do.

Advocate Awards: *These awards are given to individuals who have provided time, expertise or resources to promote fire safety in the community.*

Robert Bulloch is the owner/operator of a McDonalds restaurant in Huntsville who is a long-time supporter of the local fire department. Mr. Bulloch's latest venture has resulted in raising \$67,000 for *Risk Watch*[®], an injury prevention program for children. As a result of his efforts, every primary school in the Huntsville/Lake of Bays area has been supplied with *Risk Watch* curriculum and resource kits. In addition to raising money, Mr. Bulloch has given freely of his personal time to ensure the success of this undertaking

Kevin Frankish, co-host of City TV's Breakfast Television, is a truly exceptional fire safety advocate for the city and the province. Kevin volunteers his time as a member of the Fire Chief's Community Advisory Committee, is master of ceremonies at official fire service functions and has acted as an advisor on a number of media and communications issues. He also lends his popular persona to communicate life-saving messages during Fire Prevention Week and the holiday season.

Kim Rennie and Gloria Cook are parent members of the Keswick School Council. They are passionate believers in *Risk Watch*[®], an injury prevention program for children. However, since the school is French-speaking and *Risk Watch* is currently available only in English, they volunteered their time to prepare and teach the lessons to grade one classes during the lunch break.

Partner Awards: *These award go to organizations that have partnered with fire departments to provide fire safety support in the community.*

CH Television, headquartered in Hamilton, developed and broadcast an impressive series of segments related to fire safety during the holiday season. In addition, CH Television provides consistent coverage of emergency responses and community safety initiatives,

which are brought to their attention by the fire departments in the Golden Horseshoe and Greater Toronto Areas.

KICX 104.1 FM in Midland is a tireless promoter of fire safety all year round, at no cost to local fire departments. In December 2002, four local fire chiefs were invited to broadcast important holiday fire safety messages. This year, firefighters will have the opportunity to deliver public education messages that could save lives, prevent injuries and reduce property damage. The KICX FM community cruiser is often out on location with the area's fire safety house to help promote fire safety.

MORE FM 105.5 in Huntsville provided on-air support for the fundraising efforts of the Muskoka Injury Prevention Coalition. Through the generous support of MORE FM and other community partners, the coalition raised thousands of dollars for the *Risk Watch*[®] injury prevention program for children. Over the years, MORE FM has been a strong supporter of the fire department and is always willing to bring life-saving messages to the people of the Muskoka District.

The Wellington Advertiser is a weekly newspaper provided free-of-charge to all residents of Wellington County, with a circulation of about 35,000. During Fire Prevention Week every year in October, the newspaper provides two full pages of coverage at no cost. The newspaper also runs seasonal public service announcements and provides free coverage of fire department events and initiatives. For the past five years, the Wellington Advertiser has donated the proceeds from their annual hockey pool to support fire prevention and public education programs in the area.

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Contact:

Rodney Porter, Office of the Fire Marshal, 416-325-3120

Bev Gilbert, Office of the Fire Marshal, 416-325-3178